ALSTON-WITH-GARRIGILL

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L R E P O R T

O F T H E

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H

F O R 1965

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TO THE

CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE

ALSTON-WITH-GARRIGILL

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Harrison and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my report as Medical Officer of Health for the year 1965. I wish to thank the Public Health Inspector for his assistance in preparation of my report.

Yours faithfully,

JOHN R. HASSAN,

Medical Officer of Health.

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REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR ALSTON-WITH-GARRIGILL RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR 1965.

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SECTION A

VITAL STATISTICS

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

Area	36,971 acres
Population	2,060
Number of inhabited houses according to rate book.	
Alston Ward	546
Nenthead Ward	192
Garrigill Ward	129
Total	867
Rateable Value	£48,029
Penny Rate Product	£181

COMMENT.

The number of the Resident Population given by the Registrar General is the same as the previous year. The depopulation trend appears to be halted. There has been an extension of existing industries and a widening scope of employment for the young and an opportunity for apprenticeships. New industries have been encouraged and talked about.

There was a small reduction in the number of births and the rate per 1,000 is below average. The number of deaths is comparable with previous years and the rate per 1,000 is well above other areas, reflecting the discrepancy in age group distribution with the national balance. This pattern of age grouping which we have will undoubtedly be national in the years to come, as the birth rate falls and people live to a greater age.

The requirements and care of the elderly have been well provided by Home nursing, the Home Help Service and, most recently, by the provision of Grisedale Croft. This residential home was built by the County Council in association with the Rural District Council's Supported Independency Scheme and there is a combined total of 22 places, all of which are occupied, and for which there is a waiting list in both sections. Here there are all the requirements of the tenants, warmth, good food, congenial companionship and care by the staff and

encouragement to perform useful activities and take an interest in everyday affairs. From this centre a Meals on Wheels service is worked and is much appreciated and there is every hope that this service will be extended outside Alston Town.

A further service is now provided locally in the early detection of disease. Tests can be made on women in the detection of cervical cancer of the womb. The test is painless and quick and should become a routine like mass chest X-rays. It is recommended that the test should be done every three years on women over 35, but anyone who wishes may attend. The vast majority of tests are negative and therefore reassuring. Where cancer is present, early and curative treatment becomes possible.

I should like to thank the Chairman and members of the Committees for their continuing interest and support.

	1965 M	F
LIVE BIRTHS		
Legitimate	20	12
Illegitimate	1	-
	33	
STILL BIRTHS	M	F
Legitimate	-	-
Illegitimate	-	-
	-	
	M	F
Deaths of infants under 1 week of age	-	-
" " " " 4 weeks " "	1	-
" " " " 1 year " "	-	-
	1	

ANNUAL BIRTH RATE per 1,000 estimated population

For this area	16.7
For Cumberland	17.4
For Rural District of Cumberland	16.8
For England and Wales	18.0

	M	F
DEATHS	18	16
	34	

ANNUAL DEATH RATE per 1,000 estimated population

For this area	17.1
For Cumberland	12.0
For Rural District of Cumberland	11.8
For England and Wales	11.5

Deaths from Puerperal Causes .. .. Nil

SECTION B

(1) PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY

Medical Officer of Health (Part-time)
John R. Hassan, M.B., Ch.B., D.R.C.O.G.,
Cottage Hospital,
ALSTON.

Public Health Inspector,
R. W. Thomas, M.A.P.H.I.,
Town Hall,
Alston.

(2)
(a) LABORATORY FACILITIES

The Pathological Laboratory of the Cumberland Infirmary, Carlisle supplies a complete range of service under this heading.

(b) AMBULANCE

I regret to report that the present ambulance is unsatisfactory. It is impossible to have a speedy and comfortable journey. One of these features must be sacrificed to achieve the other.

(c) CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES

Consultant Services are available at Carlisle and Newcastle. Physiotherapy is available on two mornings each week at the Cottage Hospital. Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics are held weekly at the Cottage Hospital provided of course by the Cumberland County Council. The School Dental Clinic is held one day a fortnight at the Cottage Hospital.

The Dental Service (N.H.S.) is provided one day a week by a Private Practitioner.

SECTION C

WATER SUPPLIES

Following instructions laid down in the Ministry of Health Circular, 1/65

(a) The quality of the water supplied throught the water mains was satisfactory. The various springs from which the supplies are derived are land springs in carboniferous limestone. The spring at Killhope, Nenthead, has a fairly high iron content which causes slight discolouration under normal circumstances, but the discolouration becomes pronounced when the flow through the mains is interrupted in some way.

The Eden Water Board is drawing up a scheme to provide a piped supply to the farms and cottages along the South Tyne Valley and it is estimated that this work should be commenced early in 1966, according to weather conditions.

(b) Two Type AHWM reagent feeders are installed at Springfield, Alston and one at Killhope, Nenthead. Iron in suspension causes difficulty in maintaining the Nenthead machine in working order.

(c) None of the water supplies are liable to plumbo solvency.

(d) Action taken in the event of contamination is covered by (b) above.

(e)	No. of dwelling houses supplied	(1) direct to houses	693
		(2) by standpipes	7
	No. of population supplied	(1) direct to houses	1,937
		(2) by standpipes	13

SEWERS AND SEWERAGE DISPOSAL

Three centres of population are served by public sewers. At Alston and Nenthead the works comprise of screens, detritus chambers, settling tanks, rotary filters and humus tanks. Work was commenced this year in renewing several valves and the sludge pumps overhauled. Garrigill is served by settling tanks and the effluent disposed of by land irrigation.

REGISTERED COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There are none in the district.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Taking into account that the outside staff of this Council consists of three men and the fact that this is a rural district, a weekly collection of refuse for the three main villages can be regarded as satisfactory. In some remote areas a fortnightly collection is made and in more remote areas a monthly collection. Approximately 90% of the district is served.

My remarks with regard to salvage collection last year still apply, but possibly if we were to combine with other authorities, some form of collection could be undertaken.

SANITARY POSITION OF THE AREA

Number of Inspections	576
Nuisances Report	2
Nuisances abated by Informal Notices	1
Informal Notices	2
Statutory Notices	1
Number of Houses Inspected	216
Number of Houses Disinfected	-
New Houses Erected (Local Authority)	12
New Houses Erected (Privately)	2
Plans submitted	23
Plans approved	21
Number of sewer connections	16
Number of water connections	16
Houses demolished	-
Houses closed	-

FACTORIES

(i) Inspection for purposes of Provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector).

Premises	No. on Register	No. of Inspections	No. of Written Notices	No. of Occupied Properties
(i) Factories in which Sec. 1, 2, 3, 4, & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority.	4	1	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	13	13	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises).	-	-	-	-
	17	14	-	-

(ii) Cases in which defects were found .. .. Nil

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

During the year 30 premises were registered under this Act.

Notification of one Non-Fatal Accident was received during the fourth quarter of the year.

SECTION D

HOUSING

As can be seen from the Comment at the beginning of the report the ten flatlets and two flats were completed during the year. Having made provision for housing the elderly, the Council turned its attention to housing for general needs. It was decided to utilise the vacant land at Vicarage Terrace, Nenthead for the erection of 4 two bedroomed flats.

At Alston, the Council purchased land at Jollybeard Lane, and arranged for a suitable layout to be prepared and submitted for outline planning consent. The members were well satisfied with the layout plan, which made provision for 42 dwellings. At the end of the year, planning permission had not been obtained.

POST WAR HOUSING

Council Houses completed at the end of 1965	153
Privately owned houses " " " " "	18
Estimated number of houses unfit for habitation which cannot be made fit at reasonable cost	35
Number of houses overcrowded	7
Total number of applicants for Council Houses	48

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

Number of privately owned houses for which Improvement Grants were sought	2
Number of applicants for Grants approved	2
Number of Improvements completed	6
Improvement Grant total	£1,730

STANDARD GRANTS

Number of Standard Grant applications granted	7
Number of Standard Grant work completed	4
Standard Grant total	£462 15s.0d.

S E C T I O N E

MEATS

Slaughterhouses

One privately owned slaughterhouse was operated satisfactorily during the year.

The quality of beasts, etc. has been very high, and the only meat found to be unfit was a small percentage of offal - 9 livers affected by fluke worm.

There was no evidence of Cisticerrus Bovis.

The throughput for the slaughterhouse for the year was:-

Cattle 122 Sheep 463

MILK

Number of retailers 8.

Again attention is drawn to the condition of milk bottles. The public are largely to blame as often there are long delays before the empty bottles are returned to the dairyman. Also care on all sides should be taken to prevent the chipping of the necks of bottles and chipped bottles should NOT be used.

CATERING ESTABLISHMENTS

Again the various establishments have been satisfactory. They are as follows:-

	Licenced Hotels	Temperance Hotels	Snack Bar	Fish & Chip Shop	Total
Alston	5	1	2	2	10
Nenthead	1	-	-	-	1
Garrigill	1	-	-	-	1

The total number of licenced premises are as under:-

Alston	8
Nenthead	3
Garrigill	1
	12

Premises registered under Section 16 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955,

Making sausages and pressed meats 2

Premises registered for the sale of ice cream only 10

RECORD OF FOOD VOLUNTARILY SURRENDERED DURING 1965

Cooked Ham	2 tins	21 lbs	14ozs	Corned Beef	5 tins	8 lbs	12ozs
Chopped Pork	2 tins	8 lbs		Beef Loaf	3 tins	2 lbs	4ozs
Tomatoes	10 tins	12 lbs	11ozs	Pears	9 tins	11 lbs	6ozs
Grapefruit	7 tins	8 lbs	1½ozs	Peas	14 tins	11 lbs	6½ozs
Syrup	1 tin	1 lb		Soup	2 tins	1 lb	14ozs
Baked Beans	1 tin		8ozs	Raspberries	2 tins	1 lb	14½ozs
Pineapples	1 tin		13½ozs	Orange Juice	1 tin	1 lb	3½ozs
Rice Pudding	1 tin		15½ozs	Evaporated Milk	1 tin		6ozs
Steak & Kidney Pie	1 tin		15½ozs				

SECTION F

INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Measles	8
Poliomyelitis Vaccination	
Primary	77
Completed	29
Booster	129
Smallpox Vaccination	8
Triple Antigen	
Primary	33
Completed	31

CAUSE OF DEATH	SEX	TOTAL ALL AGES	UNDER 4 WEEKS	4 WEEKS AND UNDER 1 YEAR	AGE IN YEARS								
					1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75+
10. MALIGNANT NEOPLASM, STOMACH	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
13. MALIGNANT NEOPLASM, UTERUS	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
14. OTHER MALIGNANT AND LYMPHATIC NEOPLASMS	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
17. VASCULAR LESIONS OF NERVOUS SYSTEM	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
	F	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3
18. CORONARY DISEASE, ANGINA	M	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	3	-	-
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
20. OTHER HEART DISEASE	M	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
21. OTHER CIRCULATORY DISEASE	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
24. BRONCHITIS	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
32. OTHER DEFINED AND ILL-DEFINED DISEASES	M	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
33. MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
34. ALL OTHER ACCIDENTS	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
TOTAL ALL CAUSES	M	18	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	4	6	2
	F	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	11